

If a small plate is not provided, but never put them on the table cloth. For the bread and butter, break off a small piece of bread, butter it and eat it.

A christening is a religious ceremony, not an entertainment, and should take place in a church if possible. The family, sponsors, and a few intimate friends are all that is necessary. The friends may be invited verbally, or by little informal notes written by the mother.

When meeting, a man never offers his hand first to a lady, if the acquaintance is but slight, unless he is her host, but should wait for her initiative. Among friends, one does not wait for the other; the action is often simultaneous.

When making calls upon reception day, if meeting acquaintances nearer the entrance, one may bow and smile; but should not shake hands or enter into conversation until the hostess has been spoken to and her welcome received.

The host or hostess may introduce all guests without previously asking permission; elsewhere, and under all other circumstances, their wishes must be consulted. Members of one's own family may be presented without that formality.

Introductions are not expected at large receptions, except to those for whom the entertainment is given, or to a distinguished guest.

Query Box

H. H.—Answer to your inquiry given in another column.

T. S.—Information regarding the movement known as the Boy Scouts of America, may be had by writing to the managing secretary of the Boy Scouts of America, 124 East 28th street, New York City.

Reader—Present usage favors the word "recipe" in the sense of directions for cookery and medical prescriptions, restricting the word "receipt" to an acknowledgement for something received.

S. M.—Potatoes baked or boiled require little energy for digestion and absorption, whereas, potatoes fried in the usual way are full of grease and are hard to digest for that reason.

M. M.—Will power is not stubbornness, but is a psychic energy which enables one to overcome difficulties. It is not the same as physical or moral courage; or is courage the same as endurance. Get a dictionary and study it.

Hassah—Home-made toilet soap is not always economical or satisfactory in results. If only a small quantity is wanted, it is better to buy the best. Careful measuring and mixing of ingredients must be observed.

Orange Flower—Chocolate is claimed to be a very nourishing beverage, but many people find it does not agree with their digestion. Tea acts on the nervous system, while coffee is said to affect the heart and stomach. One may drink at one time with pleasure what at another time their system refuses to receive without disagreement.

Inquirer—One-half cent pieces were at one time coined in the United States, but for some reason the coinage was stopped over half a century ago. It is claimed that over fifteen millions of these pieces were coined and used. I cannot tell you where you could get one of them.

Some Contributed Recipes

Fresh oysters should be washed and drained well by putting into a colander, then laid out on a soft, dry cloth for the absorption of whatever moisture remains; then have in the skillet deep boiling fat, and roll the oysters, one at a time in properly salted and peppered corn meal; drop each into the fat, let plump up and cook for a very few minutes, lift out and lay on a platter, serving at once.

If oysters are cooked too long, they are spoiled and indigestible.

Another way to cook oysters is to saute them—prepare as above, roll in meal or cracker crumbs and egg, lay them on a well buttered griddle and brown on both sides. Serve at once. If the oysters are small, they may be dipped in a batter made of one egg, salt and pepper to taste, and finely rolled cracker crumbs, and fried in deep fat by spoonfuls.

Fried Oysters—Half a pint of nice oysters; two eggs, half pint of milk, sufficient flour to make batter, salt and pepper to taste. Barely scald the oysters in their own liquor, lift and lay them on a cloth to drain thoroughly. Break the eggs into a basin, mix the flour with them, add the milk gradually with seasoning, and put the oysters in the batter. Have deep fat in the skillet, and drop into this the oysters, one at a time, and when done—which will require but a very little cooking, lift each one with a sharp-pointed skewer and lay on a napkin, serving at once.—Mrs. T. R. A., St. Louis.

Spiced Beef—Cook slowly a piece of lean beef until all bones will drop out, and have the water well boiled down. Remove all bits of bone, replace in sufficient liquor to cover it, add salt, pepper, allspice, cloves, cinnamon, each a scant half teaspoonful. Let lie in this until thoroughly flavored, then press the meat in a crock or large bowl, pouring the small amount of liquor over the meat to form a jelly, after weighting the meat down just sufficient to hold it together. This is fine for lunch.—Ella S., Iowa.

For the Toilet

As the cold weather settles down, the call is insistent for "something to keep my hands and face from chapping and roughness." Here are several simple and effective lotions that may be kept on the washstand or shelf:

Get five cents (or any larger quantity) of rose water, glycerine and carbolic acid. One liquid ounce is two tablespoonfuls. Take two ounces of rosewater, half an ounce of glycerine, and five drops of carbolic acid; mix well, and after washing the hands, dry them, and rub into the skin a few drops of this lotion. Another is one ounce each of honey, lemon juice and eau de cologne, mixed and used as above. another wash is made of half a gallon of rain water half an ounce of powdered borax and a quarter pound of oatmeal. Mix, let stand three days, then drain through a cheesecloth bag, and use for the hands and face. The skin must be kept clean, or cleaned thoroughly before applying anything, and this is best done at night, after the work of the day is ended. Use only good, vegetable oil soap. No member of the family should use either laundry soap, or any of the cheap highly colored and scented soaps. A good white soap costs very little, if any, more than a cheap, fancy soap.

Be sure to boil soda in the coffee and teapots several times a week, in order to clean and sweeten. Keep the inside bright as the outside. Much good coffee and tea is wasted because of dirty pots. Don't forget to give the teakettle a semi-weekly scrubbing and inside cleaning.

WILLIAM LONG

William Long, one of the oldest and best known pioneers of central Michigan, died at Pompel, on the spot where he settled fifty years ago, aged 82 years. Mr. Long had borne an honorable and important part in the development of Gratiot county, and his declining years were spent in peace and plenty upon the fine farm which his own hands had

hewed from the wilderness. In educational and religious beginnings he labored with equal zeal, teaching the primitive schools, organizing the first Sunday schools, tolling to found and maintain the early churches, and often acting as lay minister.

He was justice of the peace for thirty-six years, marrying over one hundred couples, and in his court settling numberless cases of litigation and infractions of law in early days. He was also supervisor of Washington township for many years.

Mr. Long's first presidential vote was cast in 1848 for Lewis Cass, and from that time till the day of his death, he was a patriotic, zealous, consistent democrat.

He was for over forty years a member of the county central committee, and always took an active part in the political campaigns. He was a keen student of political history, and a public speaker of no small ability. He was one of a little band of "old democratic wheelhorses," who for more than a generation of hopeless political minority, steadfastly stood at "front face" against overwhelming odds, and marched to repeated defeat at the polls with a fidelity to principle which won the devotion of their friends and the respect of their foes.

Mr. Long's wife passed to rest three years ago, after a married companionship of fifty-two years. Three sons and two daughters survive them.

NEW YORK CLEARING HOUSE

The total transactions at the New York clearing house for the year ended September 30, 1910, reached

the record-breaking sum of \$106,749,253,056, of which \$102,553,959,069 were exchanges and \$4,195,293,986 were balances. The transactions of the New York clearing house were approximately 62 per cent of all the bank clearings of the United States. They were nearly three times those of Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Pittsburgh combined, and nearly four times those of all the rest of the country outside of these four cities. The average daily transactions were \$352,307,765.

In the calendar year 1909 total bank clearings in London were \$65,868,932,000. Those of New York were \$103,588,738,320. The increase in clearings in London in 1909 over 1908 was 11.5 per cent. The increase of clearings at the New York clearing house in 1909 over 1908 was 30.6 per cent. The largest record of clearings in London in one day was \$527,411,260, on October 28. The largest one day's clearings in New York were \$736,461,548 on November 3.

The total transactions of the New York clearing house since organization fifty-seven years ago have been \$2,230,144,291,996.

The total transactions of the year ended September 30, 1854, the first year of the clearing house's existence, were \$5,750,455,987, about one-twentieth of the transactions of the year ended last September 30.

Nothing can show more strikingly than these figures the advance of New York in the past half century toward its ultimate destiny as the financial center of the world.—A. W. Ferrin in Moody's Magazine.

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